

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Food Storage Depot

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1. The Soviet Army food depot at Marshansk [redacted] was located about 10 miles from the Marshansk POW camp on the opposite side of the city from the camp and about one km from the coal mines at Marshansk.
2. The food was stored in what were called silos which were actually large square holes, lined with concrete, about 30 ft square and dug about 2 1/2 meters into the ground.
3. The silo pits were arranged with four in a line on each side of a center roadway and a large roof covered all eight holes. The roof was high enough and the distance between the silos was wide enough to allow trucks to be driven between the holes to unload and load food directly from truck to pit. All four sides of the depot were open.
4. All types of food were stored in these silo pits including grain, vegetables, tomatoes, cucumbers, salted fish from the Volga and meat. When a silo was filled to the top, planks were put over it and it was then covered with a tarpaulin.
5. To get the food out, ladders were used to go down into the pits. POW manpower was used to pass the food up where it was loaded into trucks that had been driven alongside the pit.
6. There was no provision for refrigeration in any of the pits and no special care was given to the food except for covering over the pits

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that were filled. The Soviets depended on cold weather for refrigeration and some of the food was kept in the pits indefinitely, particularly in those pits where the filling and unfilling was always off the top half of the pit.

the fish frequently spoiled and that the vegetables froze but no one seemed to care about frozen vegetables. They apparently ate them since nothing was ever thrown away although it was obvious on a number of occasions that the food had spoiled in storage.

7. Distribution of the food took place each day like clockwork although not always at the same pits. There were often occasions when one truck would come in and unload to be followed by another truck coming in to be loaded from the same pit, taking fresh food off the top. There was no provision to use the food that had been in storage the longest. On the other hand, food in some of the pits would not be moved for a long period of time. There was also a connection with the railroad tracks which brought in foods for storage in the pits. All of the food from this depot was for the use of the Soviet Army.

8. there were no above-ground silos in Marshansk and all the food at this depot was kept in the manner described above.

9. The food warehouses in the Orak area were also huge bunkers in the ground which were constructed exactly the same as the silo pits in Marshansk. The same system of collecting and distributing food was followed in the Orak area.

There were more than eight silo pits in Orak

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